

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The An ink jet printer of claim 1,~~
~~further comprising:~~

an image forming section for forming an image by ejecting a
pigment ink toward a recording medium in which a surficial layer
5 includes thermoplastic fine particles, in a case;

a fixing member for fixing the image by heating and
pressurizing the recording medium on which the image is formed by
the image forming section;

a drying member for drying the ink used to form the image
10 before the image is fixed to the recording medium by the fixing
member;

a temperature detecting member for detecting a temperature
in the case;

a humidity detecting member for detecting a humidity in the
15 case;

a drying member control section for controlling an operation
of the drying member in accordance with the temperature detected
by the temperature detecting member and the humidity detected by
the humidity detecting member;

20 a vapor volume calculating section for calculating a vapor
volume per unit volume of air in the case in accordance with the
temperature detected by the temperature detecting member and the
humidity detected by the humidity detecting member; and

 a vapor volume judging section for judging whether the vapor
25 volume calculated by the vapor volume calculating section is not
less than a predetermined value;

 wherein the drying member control section operates the
drying member when the vapor volume judging section judges that
the vapor volume calculated by the vapor volume calculating
30 section is not less than the predetermined value.

5. (Previously Presented) The ink jet printer of claim 4,
wherein the drying member comprises an air blowing member for
blowing air to the recording medium, and a heating member for
heating the recording medium; and

5 wherein the drying member control section controls at least
one of air blowing carried out by the air blowing member and
heating carried out by the heating member.

Claims 6-20 (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The An ink jet printer of claim 20,~~
~~further~~ comprising:

an image forming section for forming an image by ejecting a pigment ink toward a recording medium, in a case;

5 a drying member for drying the ink used to form the image, before the image is fixed to the recording medium;

a temperature detecting member for detecting a temperature in the case;

10 a humidity detecting member for detecting a humidity in the case;

a drying member control section for controlling an operation of the drying member in accordance with the temperature detected by the temperature detecting member and the humidity detected by the humidity detecting member;

15 a vapor volume calculating section for calculating a vapor volume per unit volume of air in the case in accordance with the temperature detected by the temperature detecting member and the humidity detected by the humidity detecting member; and

20 a vapor volume judging section for judging whether the vapor volume calculated by the vapor volume calculating section is not less than a predetermined value;

25 wherein the drying member control section operates the drying member when the vapor volume judging section judges that the vapor volume calculated by the vapor volume calculating section is not less than the predetermined value.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

23. (New) The ink jet printer of claim 21, wherein the drying member comprises an air blowing member for blowing air to the recording medium, and a heating member for heating the recording medium; and

5 wherein the drying member control section controls at least one of air blowing carried out by the air blowing member and heating carried out by the heating member.